

Response to Amendment

Applicants' amendment after Final filed on May 07, 2007 and Appeal brief filed on 12/06/2007 have been entered.

Therefore claims as recited in the amendment after Final of 05/07/2007, that has now been entered . Claims as described below are pending in the Application.

Claims 1 to 8 as previously recited.

Claim 9 as amended.

Claims 10 to 26 as previously recited.

Claim 27 has been cancelled by the Examiner's amendment below.

Information Disclosure Statement

The IDS of -3/06/2007 was previously considered and that of 12/08/2006 is herein considered. Therefore all IDSs have been considered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Timothy M. Long (59,652) on February 14, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 27 has been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 to 26 are allowed .

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:.

Upon entering the 116 amendment (including the amendment of claim 9) of May 07, 2007 the 112 rejection of claims 9 to 17 is withdrawn.

The prior art taken either singularly or in combination fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitation of the dependent claims, in such manner that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102 or 103 would be proper. The prior art fails to teach a combination of all the claimed features as presented in independent claims (1, 3, 9, 19 and 23) including the combination of a semiconductor structure comprising." a substrate, a Snr, Ge layer formed over the substrate, and an essentially single-phase Gel-x-SixSny laver formed over the SnzGel-z layer as stated by applicants in their Appeal brief pages 6, 16, and 35-39 (claims 1 , 3 and 9) and as stated by applicants' in pages 21-23, etc. of the Appeal brief "an alloy of Gel-x-SixSny wherein x is about 0.01 to about 0.25 and y is about 0.01 to about 0.11" (claims 19 and 23)

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to STEVEN H. RAO whose telephone number is (571)272-1718. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.30-5.30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael Fahmy can be reached on 571-272-1714. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Steven H Rao/
Examiner, Art Unit 2814

/Howard Weiss/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2814